

Poffenberger, Samuel, House  
Antietam National Battlefield  
Sharpsburg Vicinity  
Washington County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-1100

HABS  
MD,  
22 SHARP.V,  
20-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

POFFENBERGER, SAMUEL, HOUSE

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Location: Antietam National Battlefield Park, Smoketown Rd  
South of Mansfield Road, Sharpsburg Vicinity,  
Washington County, Maryland

Significance: The Samuel Poffenberger house is significant both  
architecturally and as related to the Civil War  
Battle of Antietam Creek.

Description: This stone farmhouse is a two and one-half-story,  
five-bay building with a one and one-half-story  
stone wing built over a spring. Attached at a  
right angle to the west end wall is a late 19th  
century two-story brick addition. The main block  
faces south and is constructed of coursed local  
limestone with flat arches of angle cut chiseled  
stone above the openings. Windows are placed at  
regular intervals in the front and east end walls.  
The main entrance is located in the center bay of  
the front elevation and is sheltered by a typical  
Greek Revival porch. Large stone interior chimneys  
with corbels at their tops are located inside both  
gable ends. A two-story porch extends along a  
portion of the smaller stone wing.

History: According to the Maryland Historical Trust, this  
house is an excellent example of ca. 1800 stone  
construction indigenous to the Cumberland valley.  
The property was owned by John Miller during the  
late eighteenth century. In 1821, John Miller's  
heirs sold this part of the property to Abraham  
Miller. After traveling through several hands it  
was acquired by Samuel Poffenberger in 1860s. It  
has remained in the Poffenberger family virtually  
uninterruptedly since that time.

Although it has long been asserted that the Samuel  
Poffenberger barn was used as a hospital during and  
after the Civil War Battle of Antietam Creek,  
recent writings have claimed more specifically that  
this house was the site of Clara Barton's medical  
work during the Battle. Antietam National  
Battlefield Historian James Atkinson made this  
assertion based on, among other things, Barton's  
description of the spring over which the house was  
built.

Sources: Antietam National Battlefield Site, National Register of  
Historic Places nomination form, October 2, 1981.

Historian: Martha Wagner  
HABS  
1991